Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Music, which came to America with the Pilgrims, has been a dominating force in American life since that historic day back in 1619; and,

WHEREAS, The second book ever to be published in the New World was the Bay Psalm Book, a collection of psalms and hymns printed in Cambridge in 1640; and,

WHEREAS, Even Thomas Jefferson, who himself was an amateur violinist, called music "the favorite passion of my soul" and proclaimed that music "furnished a delightful recreation for the hours of respite from the cares of the day, and lasts us through life"; and,

WHEREAS, Since American music had been dominated by European composers for several centuries, Czech composer, Antonin Dvorak, did music students a big favor by encouraging them to "Stop trying to compose like Europeans. Learn to stand on your own feet. You have beautiful folk songs that express the spirit of your country"; and,

WHEREAS, The 20th Century has seen the liberation and tremendous growth in popularity of American music. The inventions and pertections of radio, records, television and other aural mediums has been a boon for American music; and,

WHEREAS, Today, American music and American composers dominate and profoundly influence the sounds and songs of the western world:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 1982, as

AMERICAN MUSIC MONTH

In South Dakota, and encourage budding songsters to remember the words of Virgil Thomson who once said, "The way to write American music is simple. All you have to do is to be an American and then write any kind of music you wish."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of February, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE